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Policy directives to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme

Activities of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the strategic direction of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and the principal activities undertaken during 1998 in support of the efforts of the international community in countering the world drug problem. As the global centre of competence and reference point for drug control, UNDCP served as the substantive secretariat in the preparation of the action plans and measures to further international cooperation adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, held in June 1998, and will adjust its strategy to support Governments in meeting the agreed goals and targets. UNDCP played a catalytic role in stimulating action at the national, regional and international levels through a portfolio of technical cooperation programmes undertaken by a network of field offices located in key regions and countries. It promoted subregional cooperation and acted as an honest broker in furthering bilateral cooperation and direct consultations between Governments. It mobilized specialized agencies and other United Nations entities, the international financial institutions, other intergovernmental organizations and civil society, particularly non-governmental organizations, in its initiatives to mount a global response to the drug problem. The present report also reviews the budgetary and financial situation of UNDCP and examines progress made in following up initiatives taken to broaden its financial base.

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I. United Nations International Drug Control Programme: an instrument for action

1. During 1998, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) played its role as an instrument and in support of the international community in pursuing its drug control objectives within the framework of the international drug control treaties. It guided the substantive preparations for the twentieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, held in New York from 8 to 10 June 1998, which represented a major landmark in international efforts to achieve a drug-free world. It formulated a global strategy based on a balanced approach with demand reduction and supply reduction as mutually reinforcing elements. UNDCP is engaged in the follow-up work. The new commitments undertaken by Governments have set the priorities and focus of work of UNDCP, as reflected in the revised medium-term plan for international drug control. UNDCP, in cooperation with Member States, initiated and finalized the development of a series of business plans to support the action of Governments in achieving the agreed objectives within the stated time-frame, particularly in eliminating or significantly reducing the illicit cultivation of narcotic crops and in reducing illicit drug demand. UNDCP will assist the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in monitoring the implementation of the strategy adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly and the reporting by Governments on progress made towards the attainment of the objectives within the agreed time-frames.

2. During 1998, the financial situation of UNDCP saw a reversal of the decline experienced since 1992. Income rose from $52 million in 1997 to $70 million in 1998, an increase of 35 per cent. UNDCP is accordingly seeking the approval of the Commission for a 13 per cent expansion of UNDCP human resources both at headquarters and in the field, within the approved ceiling of the support budget. The improved financial situation will enable UNDCP to support the expansion of programmes, particularly those related to the follow-up to the twentieth special session. Using its increased income, UNDCP is strengthening its role as both a catalyst and advocate, motivating Governments to take action in the field of drug control through a balanced portfolio of technical cooperation activities. UNDCP strengthened its presence in key countries and regions. During 1998, it supported national efforts and initiatives, giving particular attention to activities to reduce or eliminate illicit cultivation of narcotic crops through alternative development, strengthening of national capacities in demand reduction, as well as institution-building, particularly the adoption of national drug control master plans and the establishment of coordinating and planning entities. UNDCP pursued its strategy in close cooperation with Governments, the International Narcotics Control Board and civil society, particularly non-governmental organizations working at the grass-roots level and local communities and institutions. It sought to mobilize the international financial institutions, inter-governmental organizations and other United Nations entities in addressing the drug problem.

3. As the substantive secretariat of the Board, UNDCP was intimately associated with that body, and its technical assistance activities were tailored to assist the Board in monitoring the international drug control system and the flow of precursors. UNDCP also served as the substantive secretariat to the Commission at its regular sessions and in its capacity as the preparatory body for the twentieth special session of the General Assembly.

4. Increased programme delivery was recorded in nearly all regions covered by UNDCP technical assistance activities. Success in several countries was made possible by the strong political commitment of Governments and robust action at the national and regional levels. Particularly noteworthy are the business plans to eliminate the illicit cultivation of the coca bush drawn up with the Governments of Bolivia, Colombia and Peru and programmes involving member States of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Those programmes were designed to counter the flow of opium and heroin mainly from Afghanistan and Myanmar and to tackle the growing threat of amphetamine-type stimulants. In some parts of the world, for example, in Afghanistan, political constraints limited the capacity of UNDCP to move forward as quickly as anticipated with its assistance programmes.

5. To enhance the operational capacity of UNDCP and further its development as a flexible and streamlined organization, responsibility for and authority over each of the seven programmes were decentralized to the field offices. That strategic shift is reflected in the redeployment of human resources from UNDCP headquarters to strengthen expert capacity in the field. Headquarters

maintains overall policy control and its management oversight function.

6. Treaty compliance remained central in the global strategy pursued by UNDCP, which accordingly gave priority to assisting Member States in applying the provisions of the international drug control treaties. The capacity of Member States was strengthened through technical assistance. In this regard, training was provided to law enforcement personnel, national administrators, judges, magistrates and prosecutors, as well as personnel involved in the field of demand reduction. UNDCP will give particular attention to assisting Governments in meeting the objectives set for improving judicial cooperation in countering the world drug problem by the dates established by the General Assembly.

7. Countering demand for illicit drugs is a key pillar in the balanced strategy pursued by UNDCP. Within the framework of the balanced approach to drug control, a landmark development was the adoption of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction by the Assembly at its twentieth special session (resolution S-20/3, annex, of 10 June 1998). The Declaration complements the international drug control treaties, which mostly focus on regulatory control and the suppression of illicit drug trafficking.

8. To assist Governments in achieving a significant reduction in the demand for drugs by the year 2008, as set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session (resolution S-20/2, annex, of 10 June 1998), UNDCP initiated consultations immediately following the twentieth special session with a view to crafting an action plan to implement the provisions of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction. In that context, it convened a high-level intergovernmental expert group meeting in December 1998. The Commission, under its provisional agenda, is to address the issue of formulation of an action plan on drug demand reduction.

9. Many national authorities currently lack sufficient knowledge of the extent and type of drug abuse occurring within their borders, making it very difficult to develop effective countermeasures. UNDCP will accordingly assist Governments in establishing an epidemiological infrastructure that will provide a solid database on the extent of drug abuse worldwide. The database will include information on the number of people abusing drugs, the types and methods of abuse and production and consumption patterns. The database will enable assistance to be provided to Governments in adopting prevention and treatment measures, in promoting best practices in this field, and particularly in establishing early warning systems to ensure that scarce resources are used in a cost-effective manner. UNDCP will work closely with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States (OAS).

10. At the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, Governments made the historical commitment to eliminate or significantly reduce the illicit cultivation of the opium poppy, coca bush and cannabis by the year 2008. To support Governments in meeting that goal, UNDCP has outlined business plans as part of a broad set of strategies being developed by Governments and UNDCP to reduce globally the illicit supply of and demand for drugs, on the basis of a balanced approach. The business plans are based on the field experience acquired during the past decade in the eradication of illicit crops and alternative development in the Andean region and in south-east and south-west Asia. The proposed action is tailored to country-specific legal, cultural and developmental considerations. UNDCP continued to be engaged in a process of consultations with donor countries and the international financial institutions in support of alternative development. A breakthrough was made with the Inter-American Development Bank in support of the alternative development plans of Bolivia, Colombia and Peru.

11. During 1998, the subregional approach was expanded and further strengthened with the launching of new projects in various sectors. Efforts to suppress illicit drug trafficking were focused on strengthening the capacities of law enforcement agencies and laboratories through training, provision of equipment and exchange of information between countries. Governments benefited from assistance in elaborating drug control legislation that included provisions on precursor control and measures to combat money-laundering. Cross-border project activities have resulted in considerably increased communication and exchange of information and are being expanded to other borders. Many country-specific programmes were successfully completed and new programmes were designed, taking into account their complementarity with subregional programmes.

II. Operational activities

A. Africa south of the Sahara

12. In late 1998, UNDCP was implementing 30 projects in sub-Saharan Africa. While most of the impediments to implementation experienced in recent years were being addressed in 1998, civil strife in central, west and east Africa continued to cause project disruptions.

13. The strengthened capacity of UNDCP field offices in Kenya, Senegal and South Africa improved the ability of UNDCP to initiate new projects and ensure project delivery. The UNDCP field offices cooperated closely with regional organizations, particularly with the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the initiative undertaken in the Great Lakes region. UNDCP embarked upon the development of a priority programme matrix for sub-Saharan Africa in 1998, which will provide a common and harmonized framework for regional programmes to be developed, in partnership with regional organizations, as of 1999.

14. UNDCP finalized a research study entitled "The drug nexus in Africa". The study contains findings on the cultivation, production, trafficking and abuse of drugs in selected countries, and has produced a set of recommendations for future action, some incorporated into UNDCP programmes in sub-Saharan Africa.

15. During 1998, UNDCP supported OAU efforts to strengthen its capacity to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the OAU drug control action plan. OAU and UNDCP organized an African expert meeting in the spring of 1998, which led to the adoption of an OAU position paper on drugs, presented to the General Assembly at its twentieth special session. OAU member States categorically rejected attempts to legalize cannabis, and requested UNDCP support in the preparation of a plan to eradicate cannabis cultivation on the African continent. The Tenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Abuja from 20 to 24 April 1998, took a similar position.

16. In west Africa, the UNDCP project aimed at developing drug control structures, human resources and related programmes in ECOWAS countries terminated in December 1998. Training in different technical sectors was provided to 50 trainees, and several advisory and technical missions were undertaken to ECOWAS countries. The second regional meeting of ECOWAS drug coordinators, held in Gambia in September 1998, adopted draft rules and statutes for an ECOWAS drug control trust fund set up by ECOWAS in 1997, with an initial instalment of $150,000. ECOWAS member States were invited to pay 2 per cent of their contributions to ECOWAS into this fund to sustain drug control activities initiated in the region. The evaluation of the four-year project, conducted in late 1998, found that the project had successfully established a drug control coordination capacity within the ECOWAS secretariat, and had been instrumental in strengthening national interministerial drug control coordination committees in all 16 ECOWAS countries. The evaluation also noted some shortcomings in the training component of the project, in the development of national action plans by each project country, and in coordination arrangements with other donors in the region. The recommendations based on the evaluation will be taken into account in the development of a new regional programme for ECOWAS countries in 1999.

17. In west and central Africa, drug control legislation was updated and magistrates and prosecutors were trained. Decentralized anti-drug squads were supported in Ghana. Preparatory work was undertaken for the project on substance identification in Senegal, where the capacities of the national laboratory were strengthened. Support was provided to Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali. In Nigeria, two pilot projects for the integration of drug abuse control into the community-based integrated development programmes in rural and urban areas, undertaken in partnership with other United Nations agencies, were completed. In central Africa, rapid assessment surveys have been launched in Chad and Gabon.

18. Assistance was provided to the Governments of Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal in the finalization of national drug control master plans and strategies. A new multisectoral five-year programme is being prepared for Nigeria. In the Central African Republic, an interministerial committee for drug control was established and training was provided to drug law enforcement personnel. In Gabon, the interministerial committee was strengthened. Legal training was provided to magistrates in Chad, where drug control legislation has been updated. UNDCP supported a study undertaken by the Observatoire Géopolitique des Drogues on the social and economic impact of cannabis cultivation in central Africa to gain a better understanding of the factors influencing the expansion of cannabis cultivation.

19. In 1998, UNDCP initiated a new Africa-wide drug law enforcement programme to assist Governments in strengthening their technical expertise, particularly in Botswana, Cape Verde, Egypt, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Zimbabwe, as well as providing assistance to regional organizations, particularly OAU, ECOWAS and SADC.

20. In east and southern Africa, the regional intelligence liaison office project undertaken jointly by UNDCP and the World Customs Organization (WCO) established the regional mechanism for the exchange of drug law enforcement information for more than 20 east and southern African countries. A new two-year project will ensure sustainability and qualitative improvement of the network. The UNDCP seaport control project for east and southern Africa saw exceptionally good results. The first seaport drugs intelligence unit set up in Mombasa, Kenya, in early 1998 provided training for customs, police and port authorities. This led to the first-ever seizures of amphetamines in container shipments from Asia, and of heroin from Afghanistan, in mid-1998, pointing to the need to intensify African port control capacities.

21. A UNDCP legal workshop held in South Africa in August 1998 contributed to finalizing a new regional legal assistance and training programme for east and southern African countries that is to start in 1999. A drug law enforcement training project with the South African police was launched in late 1998. Consultations were held with Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa to improve drug control efforts in their respective countries and the subregion, as well as to further subregional cooperation on drug control. In Lesotho, new drug control and related legislation was drafted and appropriate training provided.

22. One of the components of an Africa-wide demand reduction programme started in 1998. It will provide preparatory assistance for a new demand reduction umbrella programme for Africa, to be finalized in 1999. It has provided technical expertise and advice to Governments, non-governmental organizations and regional bodies in defining demand reduction policies, formulating new projects and undertaking new activities. Advice and training were provided to approximately 60 non-governmental organizations and national and regional networks of such organizations. Several meetings of non-governmental organizations with other drug control counterparts were supported. About 20 non-governmental organizations from 11 west African countries took part in a regional training workshop on the management of drug demand reduction programmes.

23. In East Africa, UNDCP continued its activities with the United Nations Children's Fund to assist the Government of Kenya in the integration of preventive education for out-of-school children. In collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund, UNDCP integrated issues relating to drug demand reduction into the activities of the Kenya Scouts Association and the Peer Counselling programme. The regional non-governmental organization project for east and southern Africa was reviewed in late 1998. A new national project for Madagascar, which will include a pilot activity on sports against drugs in Antananarivo, was finalized.

B. North Africa and the Middle East

24. In North Africa and the Middle East, programmes were being implemented in Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon and the Palestinian Autonomous Areas. In Egypt, UNDCP provided support for undertaking a rapid assessment of drug abuse, coordinated by a working group of international experts operating in close cooperation with local institutions. UNDCP assistance to the areas under jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority aims at increasing capacities in supply and demand reduction. During 1998, drug law enforcement capacities of the Palestinian Authority were strengthened through the training of personnel and the provision of drug detection and laboratory equipment. Within the framework of subregional cooperation, training of law enforcement personnel was conducted by the Egyptian Anti-narcotics General Administration in Cairo and Gaza. In North Africa, UNDCP supported the upgrading of interdiction capacities in Tunisia by providing equipment and training to handlers of sniffer dogs, and cooperated with the Government of France in providing training to three Algerian law enforcement officers in advanced investigation techniques.

25. Under the guidance of the regional office in Cairo, the UNDCP project in Lebanon was revised to better respond to recent changes in the project environment. A new multisectoral project was drafted for Lebanon and a law enforcement training programme was designed for the States of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf.

26. UNDCP worked in close consultation with the Government of Morocco to address, in a comprehensive manner, the large-scale cultivation of cannabis and

related trafficking affecting the country. An estimated 50,000 hectares was under cannabis cultivation and trafficking groups, consisting of Moroccan and European nationals, organized shipments mostly to western Europe.

C. Central and eastern Europe

27. The UNDCP coordination mechanism for eastern Europe, the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States was instrumental in providing a comprehensive understanding of drug abuse and trafficking trends, and in coordinating technical assistance provided to the region. An external evaluation confirmed the need to continue the coordination of technical assistance, given the complexity of the needs of the recipient countries and the number of donors involved. Currently, UNDCP was overseeing 29 projects in eastern Europe, including those executed by United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations.

28. Following the memorandum of understanding of 18 February 1997 between UNDCP and the European Union, UNDCP cooperated closely through the PHARE[1] programme of the European Commission, with the drugs control programme for central and eastern European countries. UNDCP finalized the preparation of a joint programme with PHARE aimed at strengthening drug enforcement capacities in Bulgaria, Romania, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia with a budget of $7.64 million. A similar joint UNDCP-PHARE approach will be followed in the preparation of a broader programme to strengthen drug law enforcement capacities in 10 eastern European countries.

29. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNDCP made significant progress in the implementation of projects being undertaken, in close cooperation with the International Police Task Force and the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in support of the Dayton Peace Agreement. UNDCP activities contributed to inter-entity confidence-building. In April and June 1998, police officers from the Republika Srpska participated in law enforcement training courses in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In June 1998, UNDCP initiated the first operational planning meeting between police officers from the two parties, which resulted in the undertaking of a joint operation based on a common knowledge of raid planning techniques being taught under ongoing UNDCP projects.

30. UNDCP worked closely with the Government of the Russian Federation in supporting a plan of action for enhancing the implementation of the federal drug control programme. In that regard, UNDCP and the Government initiated a programme on drug control, prevention of drug abuse and related organized criminal activities in October 1998. In Croatia, UNDCP provided advanced training to customs personnel and supported the implementation of a rapid assessment study on the extent of drug abuse. The expertise of the national team will be made available to other countries undertaking similar studies. In Albania, despite the unstable political situation, UNDCP succeeded in the organization of training and the provision of basic equipment for the anti-narcotics police. UNDCP also finalized a technical assistance programme that will be initiated in 1999.

D. South-west and central Asia

31. In Afghanistan, illicit opium poppy cultivation in the 1997/98 season extended over 63,670 hectares in 15 of the 32 provinces, compared with 58,400 hectares in the 1996/97 season. The fifth opium poppy survey undertaken by UNDCP indicated that in spite of an extension of illicit cultivation in 1998, opium poppy production fell to 2,100 tons, compared with 2,800 tons in 1997, because of adverse weather conditions. Afghanistan remained the largest source of illicit opiates in the world. An estimated 80 per cent of heroin seized in western Europe originated in Afghanistan.

32. During 1998, UNDCP maintained the pilot programme for Afghanistan initiated in 1997. Despite operational constraints, UNDCP undertook activities aimed at testing the commitment and capacity of counterpart authorities and local communities to the reduction of illicit poppy cultivation. The activities were mainly undertaken in the Nangarhar province in the east, where conditions permitted sustained interventions. In Qandahar, activities were implemented more haltingly. UNDCP undertook empirical field studies to improve its understanding of the dynamics of poppy cultivation and marketing at the local level.

33. UNDCP implemented its activities in line with the principles laid out in the United Nations Strategic Framework for Afghanistan, which requires that utmost care be given to the issue of capacity-building. After a slowdown

in the implementation of the programme of activities, following the United Nations decision to suspend operations in Qandahar, the programme of work was further disrupted with the evacuation of United Nations international staff from Afghanistan in August 1998.

34. UNDCP participated in the Afghanistan Support Group meetings held in London on 5 May 1998 and in Tokyo on 7 and 8 December 1998, where the drug issue was given a high visibility in the United Nations common programming framework. That contributed to a better understanding by United Nations specialized agencies of the role of alternative development in eliminating illicit opium poppy cultivation.

35. In the annual poppy survey for Pakistan, it is estimated that 949 hectares of opium poppy were harvested in the North-West Frontier Province in 1998. The Government launched an unprecedented poppy eradication operation in the North-West Frontier Province during April and May 1998, leading to the eradication of 259 hectares, or 21.4 per cent of the opium poppy cultivation. Assuming the same yield as in 1997 of 27.6 kilograms per hectare, opium production increased from 24.1 tons in 1997 to 26.2 tons in 1998. A three-year ($5.2 million) drug law enforcement programme prepared in 1998 was to be launched at the beginning of 1999 to enhance law enforcement capabilities and support subregional cooperation. UNDCP supported the preparation of a rapid situation assessment of drug abuse and a number of specific studies on problems related to drug abuse in Pakistan, conducted a series of workshops involving all the major actors in the field of demand reduction, and assisted in the launching and evaluation of a pilot drug awareness campaign in one of the major cities of the country.

36. A high-level UNDCP mission to the Islamic Republic of Iran in September 1998 noted the large investment made by the Government in strengthening its borders with Afghanistan and Pakistan. On the basis of the recommendations of the mission, UNDCP has initiated a comprehensive $13 million programme. The Islamic Republic of Iran, with assistance from UNDCP, initiated a rapid assessment survey of the extent of drug abuse in the country in August 1998.

37. In central Asia, the strategic goal of UNDCP was to promote the collective response of the countries of the region to the threat posed by illicit drugs from Afghanistan. Given the constraints to mounting programmes to address the illicit production of opiates head-on in Afghanistan, UNDCP developed a programme of assistance to support countries bordering Afghanistan, in order to contain the flow of illicit drugs from that country. To that effect, UNDCP cooperated with ECO in developing a regional framework for technical assistance.

38. The first meeting to conduct a review of the memorandum of understanding signed by the central Asian States and UNDCP in 1996 was held in Almaty in January 1998. On that occasion, the Russian Federation and the Aga Khan Development Network became parties to the memorandum of understanding. The meeting endorsed the regional cooperation programme, consisting of three ongoing and two new regional projects. Two working group meetings relating to the strengthening of the coordination mechanism were held. A large-scale programme for regional cooperation in central Asia, covering border control, capacity-building, intelligence- gathering, demand reduction and precursor control, was prepared.

39. The Tajik-Afghan border, extending 600 kilometres along the mountainous Gorno-Badakhshanskaya region and 600 kilometres along the plains of the Pyandzh river, is gravely affected by drug trafficking, particularly of heroin, from Afghanistan. Large stocks of opium and heroin, estimated at 2,000 tons of opium equivalent, have been stockpiled in the border areas of northern Afghanistan for delivery across the Tajik-Afghan border. Accordingly, UNDCP initiated assistance in selected areas of Tajikistan bordering Afghanistan in anticipation of the development of a large-scale project to strengthen border control along the Tajik-Afghan border.

40. In Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, national control measures were strengthened. In Kyrgyzstan, training seminars were held and resource centres established for the collection of information on drug abuse, trafficking and educational work among youth. A sociological study on drug-related issues in southern Kyrgyzstan was conducted and published. Grants were distributed to non-governmental organizations for agricultural activities in the main drug-trafficking zone of Kyrgyzstan. In Kazahkstan, a master plan for drug control and crime prevention was finalized and submitted to the Government for approval. With the assistance of UNDCP, a national forensic laboratory was established within the Ministry of Justice. In Turkmenistan, progress was made in the establishment of a national forensic laboratory. A capacity-building project for Tajikistan was elaborated and started in October 1998.

E. South Asia

41. The UNDCP regional programme for precursor control provided assistance to Governments in preventing the diversion of precursors to illicit traffic. Policies and legislation as well as mechanisms and procedures for precursor control were adopted. A regional workshop held in New Delhi raised awareness among Governments of the need to counter money-laundering in south and south-west Asia.

42. In India, assistance provided in demand reduction, in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), led to the broadening of rehabilitation services in seven cities. Training was provided to personnel in prevention and assistance measures in the workplace, as well as in supportive action to the community. Grass-root non-governmental organizations were supported in the development of community-based drug rehabilitation services and programmes.

43. In Bangladesh and Nepal, assistance in law enforcement, preventive education, treatment and rehabilitation continued in 1998, leading to a substantial strengthening of the drug control capacity in the two countries. Missions were undertaken to both countries in 1998 to assess drug control needs and the additional support to be provided in 1999.

F. South-east Asia and the Pacific

44. During 1998, UNDCP worked closely with the Governments of Cambodia, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam in the application of the subregional projects outlined in the subregional plan of action, adopted in 1995, for drug control cooperation in south-east Asia. The projects cover activities in the fields of law enforcement, exchange of information and trafficking intelligence in order to foster cross-border cooperation, training for judicial and prosecutorial personnel and demand reduction.

45. Myanmar continued to be affected by large-scale illicit poppy cultivation, turning it into the largest producer of illicit opiates in south-east Asia. Following the deployment of the UNDCP representative in Myanmar during the second quarter of 1998, UNDCP initiated implementation of the first phase of a five-year $15.5 million alternative development programme targeting a major opium-producing area of the Wa region near the Chinese border. A key component of the project is the development of a system to monitor progress in the reduction and eventual elimination of illicit opium cultivation and to ensure that project activities achieve their objectives. UNDCP started activities to support initiatives of local communities aimed at eradicating illicit opium in the northern Wa area.

46. In 1998, UNDCP initiated a strategy to contain the flow of illicit drugs from Myanmar by paying particular attention to trafficking routes originating in that country. Following a high-level mission, UNDCP is developing a programme framework for technical cooperation among ASEAN member States through a regional initiative to counter the flow of illicit drugs and to address critical drug problems, particularly the illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants.

47. In Viet Nam, the Ky Son alternative development pilot scheme in Nghe An province, designed to serve as a model to be replicated in and adapted to other poppy cultivation areas, was given a mid-term evaluation. It was concluded that the strict Government enforcement of the ban on poppy cultivation has successfully reduced the areas under poppy cultivation in the project area by more than 90 per cent in two years. Through a wide range of activities in community development, agriculture and livestock and physical infrastructure, carried out in close collaboration with a number of other United Nations agencies, the UNDCP project is supporting Government efforts to introduce alternative sources of income.

48. The Ky Son alternative development project is developing close ties with a neighbouring UNDCP project, in a major opium-producing district in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, where the formulation of new alternative development projects, targeting priority areas, will be implemented in close coordination with other United Nations agencies and international and regional financial institutions.

G. Latin America and the Caribbean

49. The estimated world production of 700 tons of cocaine is produced within or adjacent to the borders of Bolivia, Colombia and Peru, where an estimated 200,000 hectares of the coca bush is cultivated. Colombia accounts for about 60 to 65 per cent of cocaine production, with Bolivia and Peru accounting for the balance. Colombia and Mexico account for an estimated annual production of about 12 tons of heroin, most of which goes

to North America. Although small in global terms, Latin American production is of major concern because of the potential for increased production of high-purity heroin in Colombia.

50. UNDCP assistance in alternative development in the Andean region has focused on strengthening alternative development institutions, namely, the Vice-Ministry for Alternative Development in Bolivia, the Comisión de la Lucha contra el Consumo de Drogas (CONTRADROGAS) in Peru and the National Alternative Development Plan (PLANTE) in Colombia. UNDCP signed a working agreement with PLANTE delineating areas of common interest, and provided technical assistance to 2,800 family farms and seven marketing organizations engaged in alternative development programmes. Preparation of the UNDCP business plan for alternative development in Colombia is under way.

51. In Bolivia, income-generating agro-forestry management remains the main focus for alternative development in the Chapare region. Technical assistance is being provided to 400 family farms, 15 producers' organizations in the marketing of agro-forestry products, women's organizations and municipalities in the formulation and implementation of community-based forestry plans. The innovative agro-forestry project under a gender-balanced technical team has facilitated the access of the project to women farmers. The agro-forestry project received a budget increase during 1998 and will be expanded significantly in the context of the business plan. With respect to institutional support, UNDCP assisted the development of the Bolivian national drug control plan for 1998-2001, which aims at the elimination of illicit crops by the year 2002 through eradication and alternative development. UNDCP also supported the Government of Bolivia in fund-raising efforts, such as the organization of consultations with donors and international and regional financial institutions, as well as local workshops to mobilize the private sector in support of alternative development programmes.

52. In Peru, UNDCP assisted the Government in the formulation of three alternative development programmes to cover three of the nine selected areas of the national alternative development plan, namely the Apurímac valley, the Lower Huallaga valley and the Selva Central (the valleys of the Pichis, Palcazú). In 1998, after almost 12 years of operations, the Huallaga project, the first and most important UNDCP alternative development project in Peru, terminated its activities. An impact evaluation demonstrated the contribution of alternative development to illicit crop reduction. On the basis of UNDCP surveys, coca reduction among project beneficiaries fell from 8,343 hectares in 1987 to 387 hectares at project end, reflecting a 95 per cent reduction of illicit cultivation of the coca bush among direct beneficiaries. At the same time, agriculture diversified in the project area, creating sustainable income-generating activities in agro-industries for 300 families in palm oil, 2,000 families in palm-hearts, cashew nuts and tropical fruits and more than 2,100 families in cacao and coffee production. The local economy has ceased to be dependent on coca and is marketing an estimated volume of 3,500 tons of alternative products on national and international markets.

53. In the Apurímac valley, at the end of the first phase of an alternative development programme completed in 1998, approximately 75 per cent of an estimated 2,500 family farms had abandoned coca-bush cultivation. They have diversified the land-use pattern with more than three licit crops. Currently, only 10 per cent of the income of the farmer is derived from coca cultivation, compared with 55 per cent when the project started in 1995. Over 50 per cent of the income of project beneficiaries is generated by the production of coffee and cacao. The results achieved during the first phase are being consolidated and integrated in a second phase that started in October 1998. Some 3,500 families will benefit from the rehabilitation of coffee and cacao plots as well as integral farming systems, which will further contribute to increased incomes and reduction of the illicit cultivation of the coca bush.

54. UNDCP is cooperating with the Government of Peru in setting up a monitoring system for coca cultivation on the basis of indicators such as productivity, prices, income and information on the socio-economic impact and sustainability of licit agro-industrial processes. UNDCP assisted in the preparation of the Inter-American Development Bank/European Commission Consultative Group in Support of Drug Control in Peru, held in Brussels in November 1998, and prepared, with the Government, the business plan to eliminate illicit coca cultivation. Over $270 million were pledged bilaterally and through UNDCP for the Peruvian alternative development strategy.

55. Policy guidance and technical expertise were provided to national drug control commissions and government agencies for the planning and implementation of national programmes and projects in the field of demand reduction. Examples include the demand reduction

programme for Mexico and Central America, a primary prevention project for children at risk in Peru, prevention in schools in Bolivia and the decentralization of demand reduction activities in Colombia. Ongoing activities directly benefited 2.5 million persons, mostly children and adolescents, as well as some 6,000 teachers, health authorities and social workers in a position to have a positive impact on prevention, treatment and rehabilitation.

56. During 1998, UNDCP assisted countries in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean in the implementation of preventive education strategies, which included primary prevention notably in Colombia, Peru, Mexico and Central America. The strategies targeted the school population by updating school curricula and including prevention programmes in teacher training, particularly in Bolivia, Peru and the Caribbean countries. They also enlisted industry and federations of workers for the prevention of drug abuse in the workplace and the family in Brazil. Other activities included support for programmes involving children in especially difficult circumstances and for national initiatives for the prevention of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), particularly in Brazil, the provision of primary and tertiary prevention to prison inmates in Colombia and the promotion of healthy lifestyles for youth, using the media, parents, sports personalities and community leaders in Bolivia, Brazil, Mexico, the Caribbean countries and Central America.

57. Support was provided for the establishment, at national level, of regionally compatible information systems to better monitor trends in drug abuse. Under the umbrella of the memorandum of understanding signed by Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Peru, Uruguay and UNDCP, an epidemiological programme was undertaken using the same methodology and standards, in order to obtain comparable data and develop joint preventive measures. In the Caribbean, an expert meeting was convened to review the feasibility of establishing a regional epidemiological surveillance system and to ensure full complementarity with existing epidemiological systems in the region, particularly the OAS/CICAD Inter-American Uniform Drug Use Data System, known as SIDUC. The system will be initiated in 1999.

58. UNDCP sponsored the First Congress on Drug Abuse Prevention in the Workplace and the Family of the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR), held in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in July 1998, with a view to presenting the results of a three-year model programme developed in southern Brazil by the employers' federation Social Services of Industry and UNDCP. Representatives of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay at the congress indicated their intention to replicate the programme in their countries.

59. To assist Governments in countering drug trafficking, UNDCP supported the implementation of national legislation to comply with the international drug control treaties through programmes for the training of judges, magistrates and prosecutors and through witness protection schemes, particularly in Mexico and Central America. UNDCP provided operational and investigative training, as well as selected equipment, to drug law enforcement agencies in Bolivia, Ecuador and the Caribbean countries. Under the institutional capacity-building project for drug control agencies in Ecuador, 18 dog teams received extensive training, leading to increased detection at international airports. Furthermore, 100 police officers received training in surveillance and intelligence-gathering techniques and 50 drug control officers from Colombia and Ecuador attended a workshop aimed at improving cross-border cooperation.

60. The UNDCP Caribbean programme in support of the Barbados Plan of Action is in full implementation. The Caribbean coordination mechanism established to monitor the implementation of the Barbados Plan of Action has been effective in improving coordination of external assistance, acting as a clearing house for regional drug data, and promoting a more efficient allocation of internal and external technical assistance resources flowing into the region. It has produced a new analytical document on the drug situation in the Caribbean. The subprogramme related to the strengthening of national drug control entities was initiated in Haiti, and will be extended to other Caribbean countries in 1999.

61. Under the Barbados Plan of Action, the project "Training in prosecution and adjudication of drug offences and post-conviction asset forfeiture proceedings", executed by the University of the West Indies, became operational, and legal training workshops were held in Belize in June 1998, in Guyana in July 1998, and in Barbados in August 1998. UNDCP provided support to Caribbean States in furthering maritime law enforcement cooperation. The project "Regional clearance system for the control of movements of vessels", executed by the Caribbean Customs Law Enforcement Council, was launched. A model training course to prevent and suppress illicit drug trafficking by ships and in port areas, a joint

project of UNDCP and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), was launched in August 1998. Work continued on the development of drug control legislation under the Regional Centre for Legal Development and Cooperation in Central America, jointly funded and managed by UNDCP, CICAD and the Central American Drug Control Commission.

III. Global activities

A. Treaty adherence and follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly

62. During 1998, five States (El Salvador, Grenada, Mozambique, Namibia and Palau) became parties to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[2] bringing the number of parties to that Convention to 154.[3] Five States (El Salvador, Georgia, Mozambique, Namibia and Palau) became parties to the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,[4] bringing the number of parties to that Convention to 158, and four States (Georgia, Mozambique, Lithuania and Iraq) became parties to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[5] bringing the number of parties to that Convention to 148.

63. The measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem, adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session (resolutions S-20/4 A to E of 10 June 1998), focus on the action that States should take to fully implement the 1988 Convention and to promote judicial cooperation, which complements and extends the cooperation envisaged in that Convention. In that regard, UNDCP is assisting States in implementing the recommendations that call upon States to exchange information on their laws, practices and procedures between their judicial and law enforcement authorities. UNDCP collects information on competent national authorities, designated under articles 7 (on mutual legal assistance) and 17 (on illicit traffic at sea) of the 1988 Convention, and publishes that information annually in a directory. As an outcome of the twentieth special session, the directory will, in future, also list the competent authority or authorities designated to respond to extradition requests. Other measures relate to the exchange of national laws enacted to implement the conventions, extradition practices, furthering mutual legal assistance and the exchange of the results of forensic analysis and of information on experiences gained in law enforcement, for example, through the use of the technique of controlled delivery. The UNDCP legal assistance programme has provided model laws and regulations to assist Governments in meeting their treaty obligations and in the enactment of legislation to fully implement the international drug control conventions.

64. Training and technical cooperation for judicial, prosecutorial and law enforcement personnel supported or conducted by UNDCP have enhanced the expertise and capacity of Governments, resulting in the arrest, prosecution and conviction of drug traffickers. UNDCP is developing a training programme for judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials, particularly maritime law enforcement personnel. The maritime drug law enforcement training guide, reviewed by the UNDCP Asia-Pacific Training Seminar on Maritime Drug Law Enforcement held in Yokohama, Japan, from 27 to 31 October 1997, was finalized. Participants in the informal correspondence group of national experts established by UNDCP assisted in the preparation of legislative and procedural guidelines to counter drug trafficking by sea, and in the exchange of laws, treaties and other information on national measures relating thereto. UNDCP and IMO have initiated a project in the Caribbean region aimed at providing training to counter drug trafficking by sea.

65. UNDCP served as the substantive secretariat to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its forty-first session, in its capacity as the governing body of UNDCP, treaty organ and functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, and as preparatory body for the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. UNDCP also served as the substantive secretariat to the General Assembly at its twentieth special session. It further served as the substantive secretariat to the high-level expert group meeting convened by the Secretary-General in New York, in October 1998, pursuant to Council resolution 1997/37, to review the United Nations machinery for drug control.

B. Cooperation between the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the International Narcotics Control Board

66. UNDCP served as the substantive secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board, contributing thereby to the monitoring of the international drug control

system, in close cooperation with Governments. UNDCP supported the Board in the preparation of its annual report for 1998,[6] and UNDCP field offices organized press conferences and other promotional activities related to the launching of the annual report. UNDCP further supported the preparation of the three technical publications by the Board, dealing with, respectively, narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, and precursors and chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of drugs.

67. UNDCP provided support to the Board in considering chemicals that may be included in a limited international special surveillance list of non-scheduled substances for which substantial information exists on their use in illicit drug trafficking. The special surveillance list was established in 1998 and actions to be taken by Governments were recommended. UNDCP continued to work in close consultation with the Board on precursor control projects in south-east Asia and in central, south and south-west Asia, to help set up control and cooperation mechanisms at the regional level.

68. UNDCP, the Pan American Health Organization (the regional office of the World Health Organization (WHO) for the Americas) and the Board jointly organized a meeting on the consumption of amphetamine-type stimulants used as anorectics in Latin America, held in Santiago from 21 to 23 July 1998. The meeting addressed the issue of the high consumption of stimulants as anorectics in countries in the southern cone of Latin America, their abuse, the emergence of an illicit market and the effectiveness of measures adopted by Governments.

69. The Board has provided guidance in the preparatory and implementation phases of project activities. It cooperated with UNDCP in organizing the Precursor Control Legislative Awareness Regional Conference, held in Colombo in July 1998, as part of the UNDCP regional project on precursor control for south and south-west Asia. The meeting raised awareness of precursor control and promoted the updating and harmonization of related laws and regulations. UNDCP technical assistance programmes in the field of precursor control have increased the knowledge available to the Board on the latest trends in the trafficking of precursor chemicals.

C. Demand reduction—a key to further progress

70. The General Assembly at its twentieth special session adopted the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, highlighting the importance of demand reduction as an indispensable pillar in countering the world drug problem. UNDCP will support Governments in developing action-oriented demand reduction strategies, in keeping with their commitments to have new and enhanced strategies in place by 2003 and to achieve significant and measurable results by 2008. To assist Governments in that regard, UNDCP convened an informal expert group meeting immediately after the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. That initiative was followed by the meeting of the intergovernmental working group on the elaboration of an action plan for the implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, held in Vienna from 14 to 16 December 1998.

71. An important precondition for achieving the targets adopted at the twentieth special session is to ensure that Governments have reliable information on the nature of, and patterns and trends in, drug abuse. To achieve that objective, UNDCP launched a new initiative to assist Governments in establishing a basic epidemiological infrastructure, through training and scientific advice provided through a regional network of epidemiological advisers and research institutes. The objective is to ensure that demand reduction programmes are based on a regular assessment of the nature and magnitude of drug abuse and related problems, in order to develop a database that includes best practices in prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. To contribute to that effort, UNDCP published guidelines on the development and implementation of rapid situation assessment of drug abuse and responses thereto, field-tested in more than 12 countries worldwide. The assessment is based on a methodology that combines quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques that provide a snapshot of the current drug abuse situation in a particular country or region, and identify hidden drug-abusing populations and other high-risk groups.

72. UNDCP is establishing a global youth network of prevention programmes initiated as a follow-up to the Drug Abuse Prevention Forum *Youth Vision Jeunesse*, held in Banff, Canada, in April 1998, and attended by 200 young people from 24 countries. The declaration entitled "The Vision of Banff", adopted at the Forum, was brought to the attention of both the General Assembly at its twentieth special session and the Secretary-General. The Vision of Banff and the Youth Charter for a 21st Century Free of Drugs, elaborated in consultation with youth groups worldwide and supported by UNDCP and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, were transmitted by the Secretary-General to heads of State or Government for follow-up. UNDCP built on the commitment of young people for a drug-free society at the third World Youth Forum of the United Nations System, held in Braga, Portugal, from 2 to 7 August 1998, and the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, held in Lisbon from 8 to 12 August 1998. In the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes adopted at the Conference (A/53/378, annex), Governments pledged to raise awareness of drug abuse by working in partnership with young people and mobilizing communities to adopt healthy lifestyles.

73. UNDCP forged partnerships with other agencies in developing a community-wide approach in prevention and in promoting best practices in demand reduction. The UNDCP/WHO Global Initiative on Primary Prevention of Substance Abuse was launched through a series of regional consultations in southern Africa, south-east Asia and central and eastern Europe. Representatives of umbrella non-governmental organizations and relevant government agencies from a total of 16 priority countries met to initiate the identification of local partners and primary prevention approaches. UNDCP provided support to a WHO multicountry project on the evaluation of the costs and effects of different treatment approaches, with a view to developing international guidelines for planning, provision and allocation of resources for services related to the treatment of substance abuse disorders.

74. A model programme of drug and alcohol abuse prevention in the workplace, executed by ILO in collaboration with UNDCP and WHO, has been tested in several countries representing a broad spectrum of cultural and economic conditions. This model programme has already been replicated in the maritime industry, and is currently being implemented in several central and eastern European countries, contributing to the reduction in the frequency of drug and alcohol abuse, and improving overall productivity in the workplace.

75. One of the objectives of UNDCP is to engage municipalities in taking initiatives in countering drug abuse. It participated in the Cities against Drugs conferences and cooperated with the European Commission and the Office of the Drugs Coordinator of the City of Vienna, in organizing a conference on the theme "Drug Policy and Drug Prevention 1998", a central event of the European Drug Prevention Week. The conference explored issues such as furthering cooperation and coordination between related sectors.

D. Suppression of illicit drug trafficking

76. During 1998, UNDCP participated in a data-sharing project with the International Criminal Police Organization and WCO, leading to the establishment of a jointly owned pool of data on global seizures of illicit drugs, and thus contributing to improved analysis and assessment of drug-trafficking trends.

77. Successful efforts were made in 1998 to revitalize the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission dealing with drug law enforcement. The Tenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, recommended practical measures to combat drug-trafficking networks, the street-hawking of controlled pharmaceutical preparations and the illicit cultivation of cannabis. The Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, at its thirty-third session, held in Beirut from 29 June to 3 July 1998 recommended ways to counter trafficking of precursor chemicals, drug-trafficking organizations and illicit cultivation of opium poppy and production of opiates. The Fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, held at Vienna from 14 to 18 September 1998, recommended measures to combat drug trafficking by sea, to tighten the control of precursors, to counter the illicit manufacture and trafficking of psychotropic substances and to enhance the role of law enforcement agencies in reducing demand for illicit drugs. The Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Kuala Lumpur from 26 to 31 October 1998, recommended measures to counter illicit manufacture and distribution of amphetamine-type stimulants, to improve drug courier profiling and to combat illicit traffic in heroin. Each

meeting reviewed efforts made to implement recommendations adopted at previous meetings and the impediments encountered by specific agencies in that regard.

78. A global analytical study entitled *Supply of and Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances 1996* was published in the UNDCP Technical Series. UNDCP also organized a panel discussion, entitled "Cutting the supply lines", on the occasion of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. The leading global personalities in the field of drug law enforcement reviewed measures to dismantle drug- trafficking organizations, to improve the effectiveness of controls at national points of entry and exit, to overcome the threats posed to small island States and to strengthen law enforcement in the elimination of illicit cultivation of narcotic crops.

E. Elimination of illicit cultivation of narcotic crops

79. At the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, Governments agreed to work closely with UNDCP in the development of strategies aimed at eliminating or significantly reducing illicit cultivation of the coca bush, opium poppy and cannabis by 2008. As a follow-up to that commitment, UNDCP initiated a process of formulating national business plans, in consultation with interested Governments, as programming tools for the implementation of national strategies to significantly reduce or eliminate illicit crops. Three plans were completed, for Bolivia, Colombia and Peru. Similar alternative development programmes for Afghanistan, Myanmar, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam were at different stages of elaboration.

80. At its twentieth special session, the Assembly called on Member States to design monitoring and verification mechanisms for illicit cultivation, and to collaborate and exchange information with UNDCP and other Governments. In line with the revised medium-term plan for 1998-2001, programme 13, international drug control (A/53/6 (Prog. 13)/Rev.1, subpara. 13.10 (a)), UNDCP has started to conduct assessment and analyses to provide Governments with an independent, neutral and objective source of information for measuring the extent of illicit cultivation and monitoring efforts to ensure its reduction and eventual elimination. UNDCP prepared a programme for the establishment of a global monitoring system to support States, at their request, in monitoring illicit cultivation through appropriate survey methodologies, combining ground surveys, rapid assessment techniques, aerial surveys and satellite monitoring. The establishment of a database on illicit cultivation was initiated.

F. Research and laboratory activities

81. During 1998, UNDCP published a 10-country study examining the impact of economic, social and political changes in sub-Saharan Africa on illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse. The study included the results of field research carried out in Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa and Zimbabwe, and with the involvement of national research teams. Two issues of the *Bulletin on Narcotics*, one covering rapid situation assessment methodologies, the other concerned with cannabis and related policy issues, were published. UNDCP continued to prepare the second *World Drug Report*, to be published in 1999. In the context of the UNDCP expert lecture series, UNDCP shared new methodologies in drug control with research institutions, such as the University of Rome and the Rand Corporation. UNDCP awarded grants to researchers in India, Namibia and Poland as seed money to generate baseline data or study new dimensions of the drug problem in those countries.

82. During 1998, UNDCP contributed to strengthening international efforts to address the global problem of trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants. It supported research and policy initiatives that culminated in the adoption by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session of an Action Plan against the Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and their Precursors. WHO has agreed to undertake research on the health effects of such stimulants, particularly methylenedioxymethamphetamine (Ecstasy). Another initiative is to assist Governments in the region of south-east Asia in countering the illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors (resolution S-20/4 A of 10 June 1998).

83. In 1998, UNDCP strengthened its research capacity, in order to promote better understanding of the drug problem. As part of a project to develop capacities for social research in the field of drug control, implemented in collaboration with the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, a workshop was held in Warsaw on 6 and 7 March 1998. Agreement was reached at the workshop to develop, beginning in 1998, a sustainable network

of social science researchers in States of central Europe, including the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia, who will be able to investigate, monitor and evaluate changes in demand reduction.

84. With UNDCP assistance, the performance of national drug-testing laboratories continued to improve, leading to increasing acceptance of their analytical results by their national courts. In 1998, within the framework of UNDCP activities in standard-setting and harmonization of methodologies, the following manuals for use by national laboratories were prepared for publication: *Guidelines for Validation of Analytical Methodology for Recommended Methods for Testing Drugs*; and *Recommended Methods for the Detection and Assay of LSD, PCP, Psilocybin and Methaqualone in Biological Specimens*. In addition, *Guidelines for Testing Drugs under International Control in Hair, Sweat and Saliva*[7] was published. Other publications included the revised protocol for the UNDCP international collaborative exercises, a brochure on the UNDCP international quality assurance programme and a manual on drug terminology and related information, as well as an addendum to the *Multilingual Dictionary of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances under International Control*.[8]

85. UNDCP research and experimental activities in drug impurity profiling provided scientific support to tactical and strategic intelligence-gathering efforts of law enforcement agencies. Activities included the collection of 107 seized samples of methamphetamine from 12 countries. To respond to the global spread and diversification of the clandestine manufacture and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants, a consultative meeting held in Tokyo in March 1998 discussed and reviewed current methods for the characterization and profiling of methamphetamine and other amphetamine-type stimulants, and made recommendations for future work in this area. As a follow-up, UNDCP prepared a draft outline for fellowship programmes in drug impurity profiling. A consultative meeting was also held in London in September 1998 to review methods for the identification and analysis of amphetamine-type stimulants and their analogues in seized material.

86. To enhance capabilities in the field of drug detection and testing, 19 national drug-testing laboratories were established or strengthened in a number of States, territories and entities, including the following: Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Republika Srpska and Palestine. In addition, over 400 kits for the preliminary field identification of illicit drugs and precursor chemicals were distributed to law enforcement agencies in 21 countries. During 1998, UNDCP organized 10 training courses on testing methods for the identification and analysis of drugs in seizures and biological specimens at its laboratory, at Vienna, as well as other courses at UNDCP regional training centres in Ghana and Malaysia and at collaborating institutions. A total of 32 drug analysts from drug-testing laboratories in 16 countries were trained at Vienna, as well as 28 drug analysts in two national training courses held in China. A workshop for heads of national drug-testing laboratories was held in Islamabad for 17 analysts from national laboratories and law enforcement agencies.

87. The number of laboratories enrolled in the international collaborative exercises under the international quality assurance programme increased in 1998. An additional 203 laboratories worldwide have requested participation in the programme, which is used by UNDCP as a vehicle to enhance quality and good laboratory practices and to encourage national drug-testing laboratories to pursue excellence in their performance.

G. Countering money-laundering

88. To assist Governments in implementing the provisions of the 1988 Convention, a global programme against money-laundering was launched in 1997 as a joint initiative of UNDCP and the Centre for International Crime Prevention. The objectives pursued are as follows: first, to improve understanding of the money-laundering problem and contribute to the development of policies; secondly, to increase the legal and institutional capacity of Governments to counter money-laundering; and thirdly, to increase the capacity of States to successfully undertake both financial investigations into money-laundering and the confiscation of assets derived from drug trafficking.

89. In the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, Governments committed themselves to adopt, by the year 2003, national money-laundering legislation and programmes in accordance with relevant provisions of the 1988 Convention and with the measures for countering money-laundering adopted at the special session. On the occasion of the special session, a study entitled *Financial Havens, Banking Secrecy and Money-laundering*, providing a

comprehensive analysis of the problems caused by the laundering of criminal proceeds in the offshore financial sector, was published in the UNDCP Technical Series. As a follow-up, the Offshore Initiative, a United Nations global initiative to prevent the misuse of the offshore financial sector for the laundering of criminal proceeds, was launched. Its wider objectives are to prevent the laundering of criminal proceeds through financial channels, to improve transparency in international financial transactions and to stimulate international cooperation in criminal matters involving offshore financial centres.

90. Special efforts were undertaken to assist States in improving the efficiency of financial investigations. A training manual for financial investigators was drafted, and a programme of cooperation in setting up financial investigation services was initiated with Barbados and Jamaica. A global inventory of ongoing technical cooperation in anti-money-laundering activities was established following the coordination meetings held at Vienna in September 1998. Such an instrument will make it possible to form a better picture of potential overlapping, gaps and loopholes in the provision of technical assistance to counter money-laundering.

91. In 1998, awareness-raising and training workshops were held in New Delhi, for South Asian States, and in Buenos Aires and La Paz, for States members of MERCOSUR. Missions were carried out in the Cayman Islands, Colombia, Guatemala and Panama. In cooperation with the UNDCP legal advisory programme, money-laundering issues were covered in training workshops for justice officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Senegal and Slovakia. Support was provided to the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering in the organization of a workshop on money-laundering for States of that region.

H. Inter-agency cooperation and advocacy

92. During 1998, UNDCP mobilized the agencies of the United Nations system to include drug control issues in their work programmes, and involved them in the preparatory process leading to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. The commitment of the executive heads of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies to integrate drug control into their fields of activity is reflected in the joint statement of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) adopted on the occasion of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly.

93. The Secretary-General has ranked the twentieth special session of the General Assembly together with the major United Nations conferences, designating the issue of drug control as a major cross-cutting priority for the United Nations system. Monitoring the implementation of the follow-up to the special session will become part of the United Nations review of the follow-up to major conferences by ACC and its subsidiary machinery, and be included in the intergovernmental coordination and follow-up processes. This will provide additional support to the implementation of the action plans and measures adopted at the twentieth special session to further international cooperation in drug control.

94. At the field level, UNDCP has actively participated in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, to ensure that the drug issue is included among the national priorities. There has been a marked trend towards multi-agency joint initiatives involving drug control, for example, in Brazil, Mexico and Nigeria, where UNDCP succeeded in introducing a drug control component into a system-wide programme supporting action to prevent violence against women. UNDCP also participated in a multi-agency project targeting adolescents in Peru, financed by the United Nations Foundation Inc. ("Turner Fund").

95. The ACC Subcommittee on Drug Control has emphasized the importance of strengthening coordination in operational activities at the field level. Following an evaluation of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control,[9] the Subcommittee decided, at its meeting in September 1998, to develop a broad policy framework within which participating agencies could fit their individual and joint activities. It adopted an interim action plan aimed at strengthening coordination by creating or strengthening thematic groups addressing the issue, initially in the following nine States: Bolivia, Lebanon, Mauritius, Pakistan, Peru, South Africa, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.

96. During 1998, UNDCP, in cooperation with the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, mounted a public information campaign aimed at promoting the objectives of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. The second TV World Forum, sponsored by RAI, the Italian radio and television network, was organized on the occasion of the twentieth special session, and promotional activities were held to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, on 26 June 1998.

IV. Evaluation

97. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the 14 subregional arrangements established under the aegis of UNDCP found that the more mature programmes had been successful in strengthening cooperation in drug control. The evaluation commended UNDCP for conceptually initiating the subregional approach through a network of memoranda of understanding since 1991, which has developed into an effective international instrument to further cooperation in drug control.

98. The evaluation of the System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control concluded that it had contributed to the sharing of information between United Nations agencies and programmes in the field of drug control. However, it was effective neither as a fund-raising nor as a monitoring tool, and had not contributed significantly to inter-agency cooperation at the field level. The ACC Subcommittee on Drug Control has recommended a set of recommendations to make it a more viable coordination tool and increase its relevance for field operations.

99. The evaluation of four projects in the Baltic region, aimed at strengthening national drug enforcement structures, found that the projects had led to improvements in the capacity to conduct investigations, in coordination between various law enforcement services, and in cooperation on a subregional basis. However, interdiction of drug smuggling at the borders still remained at a low level, owing to frequent changes of personnel and restructuring within agencies.

100. A terminal evaluation of a project designed to improve the process of legal development and cooperation in Central America found that the project had been well conceived and had delivered planned outputs. A Regional Centre for Legal Development and Cooperation had been established and was functioning well. Recommendations from the evaluation were taken into account in the development of a second phase of the project.

101. The terminal evaluation of a regional project in west Africa, aimed at mobilizing the involvement of non-governmental organizations in demand reduction, found that the project had covered 16 of the planned 20 non-governmental organizations in 12 countries. Non-governmental organizations had benefited from training seminars and study tours; some had also received grants for their demand reduction activities. The evaluation recommended that a new regional project for non-governmental organizations should be designed, with inputs of higher technical quality and with the objective of improving knowledge of demand reduction and developing an institutional memory and capacity for reducing drug demand within the region. The terminal evaluation of a large ECOWAS regional project found that several planned project outputs had been achieved. Sixteen national interministerial drug control committees had been established, a regional drug coordination unit within the ECOWAS secretariat had been created, and a regional ECOWAS drug control action plan had been drawn up. However, some other planned outputs had not been or had been only partly delivered, mostly because of weaknesses in the project concept and design. On the whole, however, the project had contributed to establishing a favourable environment for increased regional drug control activities in the future, and to additional funding for drug control. On the basis of the recommendations contained in the evaluation, UNDCP began to prepare a new regional programme in December 1998.

102. A mid-term evaluation of an alternative development project in south-east Asia was undertaken. Also evaluated at completion were a project in a Caribbean country aimed at strengthening the capacity of drug law enforcement agencies to control the trafficking of both illicit and licit drugs and projects in Latin America to strengthen the capacity of institutions to better control precursor chemicals, to strengthen the operational capacity of three drug control agencies, to suppress illicit drug trafficking and to improve the capacities and services of therapeutic communities led by non-governmental organizations in primary, secondary and tertiary prevention. The evaluations provided information that assisted UNDCP in improving its activities. Corrective measures were taken during the project cycle to address constraints impeding project development and implementation. The evaluations generally concluded that the activities had been well planned and executed, and that their objectives had been met.

V. Administration and finance

A. Administration

103. The implementation of administrative reforms launched at the end of 1997 continued during 1998. That included decentralization from UNDCP headquarters to the field offices, the merging of the three divisions at headquarters into two and the streamlining of adminis-

trative support arrangements. Savings realized through those management efforts were redeployed, in particular, to strengthen field operations, enhance the advocacy role of UNDCP and support image building.

104. The new financial rules for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme were promulgated in October 1998, with an effective date of 1 January 1999. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Commission had previously reviewed the financial rules, which describe a system of financial management tailored to the distinctive features of the Fund, with the aim of providing efficient management. Appropriate arrangements are provided for budget approval and authority to commit funds in line with the General Assembly resolution establishing UNDCP and prudent financial management practices.

B. Financial status

105. During 1998, there was a marked turnaround in the financial situation of the Fund of UNDCP, with a reversal of the decline in income between 1992 and 1997. Income in 1998 rose to $70.2 million, exceeding the income for 1997 by $18.2 million, or 35 per cent. This positive development resulted from an increase in the number of countries contributing to the Fund of UNDCP and an increase in cost-sharing contributions. Nevertheless, the financing of UNDCP was still an issue of concern, as general-purpose contributions stagnated. The increased income consisted essentially of special-purpose contributions. A continued concern was the lack of income predictability, as donors mostly provided their contributions on an annual basis, making long-term planning difficult.

106. The improved financial situation of the Fund of UNDCP is reflected in the revised budget for 1998-1999 and proposed outline for 2000-2001 for the Fund of UNDCP. In the revised budget for 1998-1999, income estimates were increased from $116.4 million to $148.6 million, and budget estimates from $148.6 million to $153.3 million. In the proposed outline for 2000-2001, income is expected to reach $175.0 million, and budget estimates of $213.4 million are forecast. Budget growth is mainly for programme activities that have been adjusted to address the new mandates emanating from the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. There will be a substantial decline in the level of resources required for support, including management and administration. The Fund balance continues to be reduced in an orderly manner, a process that started in 1994. It is estimated to decline from $60.5 million at the end of 1997 to $55.4 million at the end of 1999, and to $17.0 million at the end of 2001.

C. Resource mobilization

107. Voluntary contributions from donor countries to the Fund of UNDCP amounted to $90.4 million for 1996-1997. Of that amount, approximately one third represented general-purpose contributions, while the remaining two thirds were in the form of earmarked contributions for specific projects. Virtually all the 35 per cent increase in income to the Fund was in the form of earmarked contributions. General-purpose contributions stagnated.

108. In response to the appeal from UNDCP to broaden its resource base, the total number of countries providing voluntary contributions to UNDCP increased from 51 in 1996 to 56 in 1997. Among them, the number of countries providing contributions of between $100,000 and $2,000,000 increased from 14 in 1996 to 18 in 1997, and was likely to remain at least at that level in 1998.

109. UNDCP continued its initiatives to broaden the donor base of the Fund of UNDCP and to mobilize an increasing number of Member States to contribute to the Fund in line with Commission resolution 10 (XXXIX). One innovative funding source was involved in the contribution of $1.7 million from Luxembourg in 1998, drawn from assets confiscated from drug traffickers, as provided for in article 5 of the 1988 Convention. That was the second such contribution from Luxembourg.

110. UNDCP continues to encourage countries receiving its assistance to assume an increasing share of the financial burden in national drug control activities. As a result, there has been a significant increase in cost-sharing in support of large drug control programmes in Bolivia, Colombia and notably in Brazil, which made a cost-sharing contribution of $3,774,185 in 1998 for a multi-year project in that country.

111. UNDCP is devoting increased attention to possible new sources of income from the private sector, foundations and non-governmental organizations. The Drug Abuse Prevention Centre, a Japanese non-governmental organization, remains the largest non-governmental contributor, providing between $400,000 and $500,000 annually. The United Nations Foundation Inc. established by Ted Turner provided a grant of $150,000 for public

information activities in connection with the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. Efforts are being made to obtain support for other UNDCP activities from the United Nations Foundation Inc. Additional non-State sources are also being explored in different regions.

Notes

[1] Originally Poland/Hungary Aid for the Reconstruction of the Economy.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

[3] Twelve States (Afghanistan, Algeria, Belarus, Chad, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Ukraine and Zambia) are still parties to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515 (in its non-amended form).

[4] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

[5] *Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November-20 December 1988*, vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).

[6] *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1998* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.99.XI.1).

[7] ST/NAR/30.

[8] United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F/S.93.XI.2.

[9] E/1990/39 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1.